

that family members know our wishes, as relatives will be contacted and asked to sign a consent form upon our death.

Most Americans support organ donations. Nonetheless, only about 50 percent of the families asked to donate a loved one's organs have agreed to do so. Americans traditionally have strong values and share the spirit of giving within ourselves, within our communities, and in our Nation. Yet most Americans do not realize that the loss of one's life can result in the gift of life for many others.

Our corneas could give sight to two people, our kidneys could free up two people from dialysis, our heart, lungs, and liver can literally save the lives of patients who are in desperate need of a transplantation.

There is no greater gift than the gift of life. We must encourage this giving and work to leave a lasting legacy to prevent the needless and tragic deaths of thousands of Americans.

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MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs in Illinois; and I am often asked about a fundamental issue of fairness, whether I am at the steelworkers' hall in Hegwisch in the City of Chicago, or a legion or VFW post in Joliet, the Chamber of Commerce functions, a coffee shop in my hometown of Morris, or at a grain elevator, and that is the fundamental issue of whether or not it is right or it is fair that under our Tax Code 25 million married working couples on average pay \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married.

My colleagues, the folks back home, whether they live in the city, the suburbs, or the country, have all told me that they think it is just wrong that under our Tax Code 25 million married working couples pay on average \$1,400 more just because they are married. They think it is wrong, and they want Congress and the President to do something about it.

Let me introduce Shad and Michelle Hallihan, two public school teachers from Joliet, Illinois. Shad and Michelle chose to get married a couple of years ago. They just had a little baby, just a couple of months ago. But Shad and Michelle are a typical example of the 1.1 million Illinois married couples who suffer the marriage tax penalty. Now, if Shad and Michelle stayed single and decided just to live together, they would avoid the marriage tax penalty because the marriage tax penalty results when two people get married and they file jointly.

So, for example, Shad and Michelle have identical incomes of \$31,000. Michelle is making \$31,000 a year.

Under our Tax Code, if she is single, she pays at a 15 percent tax bracket. But when she and Shad chose to get married, and suppose that Shad has an identical income of \$31,000, remember he is in the 15 percent tax bracket as well, but when they get married they file jointly and their combined income pushes them into the 28 percent tax bracket. So they are now paying a 28 percent tax rate on that same income. Is that right? Of course not. It is time that we do something about the marriage tax penalty.

I am proud that this House this past week, last Thursday, voted to wipe out the marriage tax penalty with the passage of H.R. 6, legislation that wipes out essentially the marriage tax penalty suffered by Shad and Michelle Hallihan as well as 25 million other married working couples who are punished just for getting married under our Tax Code.

H.R. 6 passed this House with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Every House Republican and 48 Democrats bucked their leadership and voted to wipe out the marriage tax penalty for 25 million married working couples. That is a big momentum. Of course, our hope is the Senate will follow our lead.

One thing that I am so proud of our leader, the leader of this House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the House Speaker, I thought made a very smart decision. He made a decision to allow H.R. 6 to come to the floor as a stand-alone bill, a bill that only deals with one subject. A clean bill that wipes out the marriage tax penalty and that is all it does. No extraneous issues.

Remember when the President and AL GORE vetoed our effort to wipe out the marriage tax penalty last year? It was part of a package, tax-related legislation. And, unfortunately, they used the other provisions as an excuse to wipe out our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

My colleagues, we have a great opportunity. And my hope is the Senate will follow our lead and move quickly to move H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, through the Senate as a stand-alone bill. No extraneous provisions, no riders, no poison pills. We need to keep it bipartisan. Let us keep partisan politics out of our efforts to wipe out the marriage tax penalty.

Over the next few weeks, 25 million married working couples like Shad and Michelle Hallihan are going to be back home watching to see if Congress and the President do something about the most unfair aspect of our complicated Tax Code, and that is the marriage tax penalty. We have a great opportunity, and it is all about fairness. Is it right, is it fair that under our Tax Code 25 million married working couples pay on average \$1,400 more just because they are married? Twenty-five million couples just like Shad and Michelle Hallihan.

Let us wipe out the marriage tax penalty. The House has done its job.

My hope is the Senate will do its job, and my hope is the President will keep his word. Because, remember, in his State of the Union address, he mentioned the marriage tax penalty and the need to do something about it. We have an opportunity. Let us keep it bipartisan, let us get the job done, let us bring fairness to the Tax Code and wipe out the marriage tax penalty once and for all.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

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□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN) at 11 a.m.

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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, whose mercies are without number and whose spiritual nourishment is available without limit, we place before You our petitions and prayers. May our hearts be more sensitive to the needs of the poorest among us, the hungry and the homeless, those abandoned and those alone. May we do what we can to share the wonderful blessings of liberty with those who have no freedom or who suffer from the ravages of conflict.

May Your good spirit, O God, that spirit that brought the world into being and gives light and hope to the world, be and abide with us and all people, now and evermore. Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

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DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

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ENDING UNFAIR TAXES ON AMERICANS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I bring this House and the American people good news this morning, because I have just come from a hearing conducted by our Committee on Ways and Means, on which I am honored to serve.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, for all Americans, but especially for senior Americans, is that this House is preparing to get rid of the unfair penalty on earnings for senior citizens. It is unfair; it is work that is long overdue, and by listening not only to the people of Arizona, but to the people of America, this House stands ready to end the unfair earnings limit on seniors who are Social Security recipients.

We are also pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the President yesterday in an interview joins with us on this. I only hope that the President will also join and work, as this House has done, to sign legislation that ends the unfair marriage penalty on so many Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, the record is clear: this Congress is working to end tax unfairness and restore tax fairness and equity for the American people.

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EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am from Florida, and I rise in support of the Everglades Restoration Plan and funding to make it a reality.

The State of Florida has lost 46 percent of its wetlands and 50 percent of its historic Everglades ecosystem. Fifty years ago, the Federal Government established the Everglades National Park, but simultaneously a series of canals, levees and other flood-control structures constructed by the Southern and Central Florida Project disrupted the life blood flow of water to the Everglades. Clean fresh water was cut off from the Everglades. In addition, 68 plant and animal species have become threatened or endangered with extinction.

The Everglades Restudy we are looking at now, Mr. Speaker, presents us with a very bold road map to undo the damage that has occurred during the last 50 years. It sets forth an extremely challenging agenda to restore the hydrology of the Everglades. It is a beautiful river of grass, and I am sure everyone in this country wants to see it restored.

We want to meet the needs of both urban and the farming industry, as well as the needs of the natural ecosystem. Restoration of the Everglades ecosystem will yield long-lasting human and environmental benefits to us all. By funding this plan, Mr. Speaker, we can restore this Everglades ecosystem.

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SUSAN B. ANTHONY—A GREAT AMERICAN CHAMPION

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is well remembered as one of our Nation's greatest champions, not just of the rights of women, but the rights of all Americans. In addition to her work for women's rights, she was also a leading voice speaking out against the evils of slavery.

She considered her work in turning women away from abortion as some of the most important in her life. She declared that amongst her greatest joys was to have helped "bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so that their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them."

Today, on the 180th birthday of her death, I rise in honor of this great human rights crusader and to bring her wisdom to bear on one of the great human rights issues of our day, the right of preborn children to live.

Susan B. Anthony was clear: abortion for her was nothing less than, quote-unquote, "child murder," and she devoted much of her energies toward making women independent of what she termed the "burden" of abortion.

As we celebrate this day, let us also recommit ourselves to her goal of re-

lieving women of the burden of abortion.

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SENIORS DESERVE RELIEF FROM SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that all work is noble. As much as I believe that, it is a shame that our government does not, because even though we might think all work is noble, our government, unfortunately, views work performed by senior citizens as apparently something less than noble. How else can one explain the Social Security earning limit, which actually penalizes senior citizens who have jobs?

Our seniors have worked hard their whole lives and have paid a lot of money into the Social Security system. They do so with the expectation that they will receive Social Security benefits when they turn 65. But the truth of the matter is that millions of seniors who choose to work after the age of 65 are stripped of their Social Security benefits. This is wrong.

The time has come to stand up for working seniors, just as we stood up for married couples last week. Because just as it is wrong for the government to penalize people for getting married, it is wrong for the government to penalize senior citizens for working. Let us give seniors relief from the Social Security earnings limit.

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COLOMBIAN DRUG POLICY TOWARDS AMERICA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, while American politicians just say no, reports say that the Colombian drug cartel has placed a \$200,000 bounty on our border patrol. No limits. Kill five agents, you get \$1 million.

Now, if that is not enough to tarnish our slogan, Colombia also plans to increase production of cocaine by 20 percent; and Colombia will expand their coca bush planting to 465 square miles, 465 square miles, and most of it targeted for the United States of America.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. While American troops are guarding borders overseas, vaccinating dogs in Haiti, the drug lords of Colombia are shooting our border patrol.

A Nation without secure borders is a Nation without security.

I yield back the crime, death, addiction, and stupidity in America.

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THE KEEP OUR PROMISES ACT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)